

# For the lands you love



## Taking the long view...

Considered by many to be the father of the modern day “land ethic” in the United States, Aldo Leopold wrote of the importance of “thinking like a mountain”. In response to witnessing “a fierce green fire” in the eyes of a dying wolf, he considered the long-term impacts of losing a species. The idea of “thinking like a mountain” also captured the interconnectedness of nature, environmental sustainability and the importance of maintaining the long view.

As we celebrate our 40th year and mourn the loss of Zad Leavy, one of our founders, we are reminded that our work is generational. We have all inherited a legacy of stunning landscapes to care for and the decisions we make today create the conservation opportunities and challenges of tomorrow. “Thinking like a mountain” reminds us to think big and to think beyond our own lives and lifetimes. It requires courage to take on daunting projects, to stretch ourselves to new heights, to cultivate patience and to redefine what conservation can mean for everyone.

As supporters of Big Sur Land Trust, you are part of an unfolding conservation legacy; a story that takes the long view and deepens with each acre conserved, each tree planted, each trail built, and each person that gets involved. Thank you for making local land conservation a community priority.

And to Zad: Thank you for thinking like a mountain.

Jeannette Tuitele-Lewis  
 President/CEO



## In their own words

A conversation with Zad and Laela Leavy

*On March 22, 2018 we had the pleasure of sitting down with Zad and Laela Leavy for a chat about their roles as members of the group of founders who started Big Sur Land Trust 40 years ago. Two weeks later they attended our Founders and Former Trustees potluck lunch at Glen Deven Ranch. Everyone was so excited to see them! Little did we all know that within a month, we would lose Zad – and that makes this conversation even more precious. We are immensely grateful to both Zad and Laela for their time as founders and as continuous supporters. The generous donations to Big Sur Land Trust being made in Zad’s memory are a lasting testament to his incredible legacy. Note: Because this was a dynamic conversation with Zad and Laela, comments that are not marked with their names were given in combination.*

### What originally brought your family to Big Sur?

We lived in Los Angeles and would come up to go camping. We fell in love with the area and thought, “How often are we going to be able to get up here?” Our original intent was to build a “little cabin in the woods” and come up on weekends. One day we just looked at each other and said, “Why not?” We presented the idea of a permanent move to the kids and told them that it was going to be our “Big Sur adventure”. The kids were 10 and 12 – it was a family decision to move.

Two years later we finally found a piece of land behind Ventana. We moved in 1974 from Manhattan Beach. Zad was winding down a big class-action suit, and his law partners thought that we’d be back in a year.

**Laela:** First, we rented a trailer near the Big Sur Grange. Four of us and a dog. The kids slept outside, but when the rains came we all ended up in the trailer. The kitchen table came down and made a bed. I can still see my son’s feet hanging off. We realized then that this arrangement was not going to work for long. So, we rented a cabin at the State Park from November to February and added another dog to our family. We had one tiny bathroom – and we still like each other! It was one of my favorite years.

**Zad:** We started with “a little cabin” and then it got bigger and bigger and bigger. I built almost the entire interior of the house: doors, tables, and lots of other things.

**Laela:** It really was an adventure! Julianne started at Captain Cooper and our son Michael was in middle school. Every morning we’d walk them down the hill at 6:30 a.m. or whatever time it was to catch the bus. I can’t believe I did that! We kept our boots by the door and survived four fires. We lived there full time until 1989 when we moved to Carmel, where Zad had his law practice. We sold the house in Big Sur in 2000 and it burned completely in 2008. It was a 37-pole structure and every one of them burned. That was hard to see.

### Did you have any interest in open space before camping in Big Sur?

**Zad:** I was in the Boy Scouts and did a lot of camping and hiking. After WW II, I helped Boy Scout execs set up Camp Emerald Bay in Catalina. Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and the Red Cross used it along with lots of other people. I was the caretaker so I was there all the time. It was really kind of fun.

### Did you know anyone when you arrived in Big Sur?

No, only our architect, Jeremy Wilson. Then we met Bruce Newell, Roger’s brother. We gradually met other folks that we connected with mostly over the idea of trying to preserve the area. We got interested in starting a land trust because there were plans to subdivide 40 acres above our property to build ranchettes. In 1976 we started talking seriously to folks. We sat around kitchen tables and talked over cups of coffee.

### Where did your group meet?

At everyone’s homes: the Newells’, the Hopkins’, the Forsters’, Sherna Stewart’s, and our house. Anywhere there was a kitchen table.

Then Pat and Lloyd Addleman came to a meeting and said, “Finally, we found people who agree with us!”

We made some good friends. The people who started Big Sur Land Trust were really great.

*(continued on next page)*



Laela and Zad Leavy at Glen Deven Ranch  
 Photograph: Margret Cordts



View from Echo Ridge, Mitteldorf Preserve  
Photograph: Gary Wilson

(continued from cover)

### Did anyone have any experience?

**Laela:** This was new to us all. And Zad learned fast. We became immersed in it.

And putting it mildly, not everyone liked what we were doing. The Big Sur Gazette reported that we were forming the land trust so that we could develop oil wells off the Big Sur coast. Some people thought we were going to sell out to the Federal government and that it was a takeover plot. We had threats that our house was going to be burned down. There were hang-up calls at 4 a.m.

It wasn't always easy. But there was never a question that we would keep moving forward. We just recently heard that one of the folks that was really against Big Sur Land Trust back in those days now thinks it might not have been such a bad idea.

**Zad:** Being on the coastal commission meant that I had the bigger picture. I could see how our activities fit into the larger scheme of the state efforts. California was in the middle of the Coastal Protection Act and the coastal commission was formed. It was right in line with what was happening all over.

The Trust for Public Land gave us our first big boost. We visited them when we were beginning. Marty Rosen is a still a friend and we were lucky to have his support.

In February 1978, Big Sur Land Trust incorporated as a nonprofit and we were operating with an all-volunteer board.

**Laela:** I don't think Big Sur Land Trust would be where it is today without Zad and his ability to see something and go forward with it. Zad has a healthy dose of "chutzpah"!

### What felt like your first big win?

The biggie was Gamboa Ranch. We heard that 19 attorneys had the land and were ready to sell to a developer. Lloyd Addleman approached David Packard, whom he had known through the tech industry, and David said he would fund the purchase. We were all on the edge of our seats. That was very exciting. Gamboa Ranch is still protected, standing as an open span of pastures and coastal hills that offers iconic views.

There weren't many land trusts in the country. The movement really started growing around that same time. It was fun, despite some of the turmoil.

Another big one was Glen Deven Ranch. Roger Newell was very involved in speaking with Virginia and Seeley Mudd. Virginia was especially interested in conserving it.

**Laela:** We have a bench there! The kids and I had the bench made for Zad's 70th birthday. Originally, we set it up at Mitteldorf Preserve, right next to the stream. A few years later we had it moved to Glen Deven Ranch, because that's Zad's favorite place.

### What about Glen Deven makes it your favorite place?

**Zad:** My relationship with the Mudds. And my daughter Julianne loves it and has used it for the kids in her Harmony at Home program. I have a lot of connections to the place.

**Laela:** Mitteldorf Preserve is my favorite because I love the redwoods. They feed my soul. Sometimes I just need to get to Big Sur. I need to walk through the state park, and visit the place we used to live while we were building our house.



Big Sur Land Trust founding families

### What's most important in the origin story of Big Sur Land Trust?

**Laela:** It's the people sitting around the kitchen tables. The transactions are important, of course, but the fact that enough people – a small group of us – got together and started something. We persevered on something that turned out to be very important. That to me is what stands out in my heart.

**Zad:** For me it's coastal protection. It is so important for people to have this coast. We need to take care of it.

**You and the other founders could have chosen an easier path, but you chose one that had a lasting legacy: 40,000 conserved acres throughout Monterey County. We are so grateful!**

**Laela:** We are grateful too. It was a whole different experience. Who expected it? We planned a move to Big Sur and then one thing led to another...

**When you founded BSLT you were thinking about conserving the land primarily. How do you feel now that our mission has expanded to continually caring for these conserved lands and advocating for people to have more access to open spaces?**

**Laela:** I love it. I think it's terrific.

**Zad:** It's very fulfilling. To see all the work the land trust has been able to do over the years and to see all this come about.





Carr Lake Native Plant Garden  
Photograph: Jade Bare

# Planting a Dream at Carr Lake

You can help create a new park in the heart of Salinas!

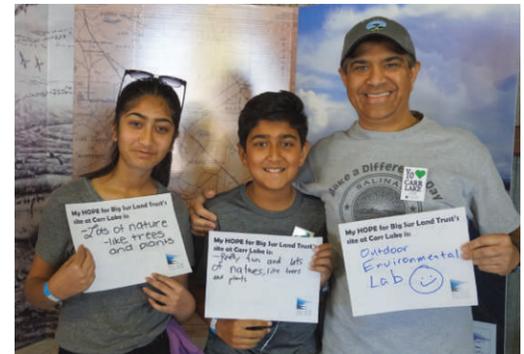
**Share your vision for Big Sur Land Trust's site at Carr Lake. Community meetings will be held during the summer and fall of 2018. To give us your ideas and ensure you are notified of these important meetings, sign up at [www.bigsurlandtrust.org/carr-lake-vision.htm](http://www.bigsurlandtrust.org/carr-lake-vision.htm).**

For decades, the Salinas community has envisioned transforming Carr Lake – an approximately 480-acre seasonally dry lakebed in the center of the city – into open green space. In January 2017, Big Sur Land Trust purchased 73 acres within the Carr Lake area with the support of public and private funding. The goal now is to work with the community to co-design a multi-benefit park that also provides environmental benefits such as ecological restoration, water quality improvement and flood control.

Big Sur Land Trust's Director of Conservation, Rachel Saunders explains, "Focusing on building relationships and engaging residents in the visioning process for the property is a key priority." BSLT is working with 12 organizations – a combination of public agencies, nonprofits that work on youth and public health issues, and staff from the City of Salinas. This group is helping to guide the process used to engage the community in developing a vision for the park. We are also partnering with the Center for Community Advocacy (CCA) to directly involve residents in the process.

Additionally, a landscape architect and science experts are helping us understand the natural characteristics of the site. We will be able to incorporate that expertise into the site design along with the community's vision. For example, as we restore the property we may be able to improve the quality of water that flows through it and into the protected Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

We continue making short-term improvements that will enable residents to access the site for specific activities. In February, Big Sur Land Trust, with CCA, Return of the Natives, a Restoration Education Project of California State University Monterey Bay (RON), and other partners welcomed over 100 residents to a community planting day. A new quarter-acre native plant garden was planted as a demonstration site for future land restoration while guests shared their hopes for a new park. During the winter and spring, students from local middle schools, high schools, and the neighboring adult school added plants to the garden with RON's guidance.



Volunteers share their hopes for a future park at BSLT's Carr lake in Salinas

A gathering/observation area is now being developed in the native plant garden site where residents will be able to view and learn about the larger landscape. Interpretive signage will give visitors a chance to take an informed look at Carr Lake, while the native garden will give them an impactful visual sample of what restored habitat might look like.

After the community's vision is created by early 2019, a final park plan will be developed. We anticipate fundraising for park construction will begin in 2020/2021. Community support is critical to creating and sustaining a new park in Salinas where people and nature will thrive, leaving a lasting legacy for future generations.

## iVamos Afuera Salinas!

A community event supporting the California Council of Land Trusts' Take It Outside California! initiative



"¡Vamos Afuera!/Take It Outside Salinas! gives me hope and inspiration. I see it as an event that is building and strengthening local residents' relationships with nature; with local organizations; with the City of Salinas; with our diverse communities – and most importantly – with ourselves."

*Leticia Hernandez*  
Lead Coordinator  
Big Sur Land Trust

Volunteer Garden Manager  
Local Urban Gardeners





Patrick Riparetti, BSLT's Stewardship Projects Manager explains, "We're excited to be on the forefront of this strategy, and over the next two years we will continue to carefully monitor the impact of this release at Glen Deven Ranch."

# A Tiny Hero for the Central Coast?

Cape Ivy Gall Fly - Contributed by Carrie Powers

Cape ivy (*Delalireia odorata*) doesn't seem all that dreadful at first glance. A perennial vine that's native to South Africa, it can climb up to nine meters, grows in shady habitats along the coastline and, in the winter, bursts with vibrant flowers in cheery shades of yellow.

However, Cape ivy's appearance is deceiving. The vine is toxic to animals that eat it, as well as to any fish dwelling in waterways with which it comes in contact. And, given enough time, Cape ivy will slowly smother the trees that it grows on.

Unfortunately, Cape ivy has reached other parts of the world as an invasive species, including the entire California coast. It's not easy to

exterminate. Unless the plant's entire root system is removed, it will regrow again and again.

That's where the Cape ivy gall fly (*Parafreutreta regalis*) comes in. Also native to South Africa, *P. regalis* is a tetruphrid fly that lays its eggs on Cape ivy. In the process, it creates large growths on the plant's shoots, known as galls. As the fly larvae hatch, they begin to feed on plant tissue, stunting the plant's growth.

Here's where it gets interesting: both in the fly's native South African habitat and in controlled quarantine conditions, no galls were found on any plant other than Cape ivy. *Even when given the chance to form galls on 93 other species of plants,*

*including fruit-bearing trees and bushes, the fly laid its eggs exclusively on Cape ivy.*

This means introducing the Cape ivy gall fly to the California coastline may significantly hamper the growth of Cape ivy while leaving California's crops and native plants unharmed.

Big Sur Land Trust has taken part in efforts to curb the growth of Cape ivy by giving the USDA permission to release approximately 50-60 flies on Glen Deven Ranch in 2016. Since then, researchers have regularly checked for gall formation on Cape ivy plants in the area, and will continue monitoring the flies' dispersal and impact.

# Collecting Fog at Glen Deven Ranch

Supporting efforts to provide clean water in developing regions - Contributed by Carrie Powers

There's a wealth of information hidden in California's fog, and Big Sur Land Trust is proud to assist researchers in its discovery. A recent study published in the journal of Aerosol and Air Quality Research\* has used data collected at Big Sur Land Trust's Glen Deven Ranch to compare the efficacy of various fog collection methods, which has helped researchers identify ways to provide clean water to developing regions and analyze the pollutants carried by fog.

Let's learn more about the study, its major findings and the role that Glen Deven played.

## THE STUDY

Led by Dr. Daniel M. Fernandez, Professor, School of Natural Sciences at CSU Monterey Bay, and other experts, the primary goal of this study was to compare the fog collecting performance of three different types of mesh.

As the study explains, humans have been harvesting fog for a very long time. In fact, the practice of fog collecting dates back as far as 2,000 years.\*\*

While this ancient technique can't meet the needs of a large metropolis, it is a way to bring sufficient water to developing regions around the world, including those in South America, Africa and Asia.

In central California, fog collection can be practically used to provide water to grazing animals and wildlife during dry seasons. Additionally, collecting fog reveals pollutants that are transmitted through nature's hydrological system, as well as the amount of fog being produced in different areas.



Fog collection station at Glen Deven Ranch

## A GREAT PLACE TO COLLECT FOG

Fog collectors have been deployed at Big Sur Land Trust's Glen Deven Ranch for the past five years. According to Dr. Fernandez, "Glen Deven is an excellent location for looking at measurements of fog water collected given its proximity to the ocean and its moderate elevation." One square meter of mesh at the ranch can collect anywhere from a fraction of a liter to several liters of water in a single day.

The meteorological station at the ranch provides valuable context to all fog collection data. At this station, factors such as wind speed and direction, humidity, solar radiation, air temperature, barometric pressure and rainfall are measured.

Fernandez adds, "The space we have at Glen Deven allowed us to deploy several different types of mesh, which was very useful for comparisons."

## KEY FINDINGS

After analyzing the study's results at Glen Deven and other locations, researchers have come away with a few key points:

- **Efficacy varies by conditions:** Interestingly, no single type of mesh is more effective at collecting fog than others. Rather, some types are more effective in high-wind, while some are more effective in low-wind.
- **Effective collection is localized:** Even though fog can appear ubiquitous on the central coast, the study revealed that effective fog collection varies greatly by a distance as short as several hundred meters.
- **Fog can carry pollutants:** Scientists have been aware for some time that fog can carry impurities such as salt particles and bacteria. However, they've discovered that fog that's near the ocean, such as the fog at Glen Deven, can pick up additional impurities from the ocean. Similarly, fog that's near agricultural areas can carry pollutants from fertilizer and pesticides.
- **Fog carries more pollutants than rain:** Since fog is made up of much smaller particles than rain, and hovers around ground level for a much longer period, it can often contain higher concentrations of pollutants than rain. For example, fog particles contain higher levels of ocean-originated methyl mercury than droplets of rain. However, most or all these pollutants can be filtered out before being consumed by humans.

All these insights will help more effectively collect fog, monitor local pollution and help developing areas of the world gain low-cost access to clean water.

\*<http://www.aaqr.org/article/detail/AAQR-17-01-FOG-0040>

\*\*<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/07/090709-fog-catchers-peru-water-missions.html>

# What's Next After Major Eucalyptus Removal at Glen Deven Ranch?

Increasing safety was the first step, now it's all about long-term restoration

In the late 1800s, six eucalyptus trees were planted at Glen Deven Ranch in Big Sur resulting in thousands of highly flammable invasive trees covering almost 20 acres at the site. The 2016 Soberanes Fire devastated over 50 homes in the backcountry of Palo Colorado Canyon. Because Big Sur Land Trust had already removed thousands of dangerous eucalyptus trees at the ranch, Cal Fire had much better access to fight the fire before it destroyed even more homes. But there were still many more trees to remove.

In mid-May, Big Sur Land Trust completed the final phase of our six-year eucalyptus removal project. The effort cost nearly \$1 million and was funded through public grants secured by BSLT, and money raised by the generous donors to Monterey County Gives! All these funds helped us make Glen Deven an even safer emergency access option for our neighbors, firefighters and other emergency workers in Palo Colorado Canyon.

## WHAT REMAINS

Neighbors and visitors will notice that there are – relatively – few eucalyptus trees still standing. Some have been left to provide stability for the road and a bit of a windbreak for nearby residents. Others' projected fall-path would have scarred healthy chaparral habitat. And some felled trees too difficult to remove were cut into rounds and left on the ground. Dead trees also act as "wildlife trees" providing perches and nesting areas for birds, and shelter for animals while the habitat is in transition.

Jeff Powers, BSLT's Director of Stewardship says, "Our goal is reducing wildfire fuels to help protect Palo Colorado Canyon and surrounding communities while restoring redwoods and other native species to the ranch. Now that most of the eucalyptus on the property have been removed, we can concentrate on restoration."

## NEXT STEPS

Though the terrain looks sparse now, as part of our ongoing restoration efforts, maritime chaparral species will be planted on sunny, southern-facing slopes over the next several years. Species will include sagebrush, coffeeberry, canyon gooseberry, and others. Meanwhile, existing native seeds will be encouraged to regrow and redwoods will populate the northern-facing slopes along with native understory species.

As we work on the continuum of conservation and stewardship...we must all take the long view, imagining the beautiful restored landscape that is yet to come.

**MONTEREY COUNTY GIVES!**

After the 2016 Soberanes Fire swept through parts of Palo Colorado Canyon, BSLT worked extremely hard to finish our removal project. Our sincere thanks go to the amazing donors that supported Monterey County Weekly's Monterey County Gives! program. Your generosity raised \$75,000 and is essential to providing safe access for the community and firefighters during wildfires and emergencies.

## Redwood Tribute Trees

August 16, 2017 through May 18, 2018

### IN HONOR OF

Kit Armstrong  
*Allison Armstrong*  
Nancy Ausonio  
*Diane Ausonio*  
Joan Bennett  
*Robin Lee*  
Nan Borreson and Fred Terman  
*Nan Borreson and Fred Terman*  
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*Pat Wilkinson*  
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*Jenifer Mann*  
*John Schuttish*  
Peter and Jane Ashley Skinner  
*Kenny Ball*  
Ann and Steve Sundberg Family  
*Linda and John Murtfeldt*  
Matt Taylor  
*Carin Taylor*

### IN MEMORY OF

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*Sandra Breeden*  
Jim Conway  
*Stephanie Ruskell*  
Muriel Ada Curtis  
*Matt and Lauren Sweeney*  
Deanna DiNallo  
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# A Perspective from George St. Clair

Land & Legacy Society Member

Before retiring last June, George St. Clair was an educator for the past 45 years starting out with the Peace Corps as a volunteer science teacher in Samoa and Fiji. After teaching Biology for many years, most recently he spent 17 years coordinating volunteers at Mountain View High School's Tutorial Center in the south San Francisco Bay Area.

An avid hiker, George explains, "I was born and raised on the Monterey Peninsula and I spent most of my youth along rivers, streams and in redwood forests or the back country. Long before I retired, I planned to devote my time as a volunteer to several organizations including Big Sur Land Trust, the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Pt. Lobos Foundation."

George goes on to say, "Big Sur Land Trust's mission to conserve and steward the local lands and the Aquarium's mission to protect and

care for our oceans go hand in hand. And Pt. Lobos is such a treasured space. What can be more important than the conservation and care for both lands and ocean?"

Joining the Land & Legacy Society was an easy decision. "It's the perfect way to make a lasting commitment to my love for the land, long after I've passed on. Being a Land & Legacy Society member exemplifies the spirit of land stewardship and transformation of people that I have always believed in."

Having hiked our Arroyo Seco, Mitteldorf Preserve and Marks Ranch properties, George is very excited to lead hikes for Big Sur Land Trust.

"I am able to be part of something larger in my retirement. My involvement with Big Sur Land Trust and the other organizations is providing more meaning to this time in my life."



George St. Clair

George feels that "Giving is a work in progress, it's something that builds over time." And, as he congratulates Big Sur Land Trust on our 40th anniversary, he hopes to become even more involved.

*Thank you, George, for being such a forward-thinking supporter of Big Sur Land Trust!*

## Legacy Giving

Become a member of the Land & Legacy Society

Big Sur Land Trust established the Land & Legacy Society to honor and acknowledge those who provide support by including the Land Trust in their will. Members are recognized in our annual report and invited to an appreciation event each year to hear more about the impact created by Land & Legacy Society members.

Please remember Big Sur Land Trust in your plans and become a member of the Land & Legacy Society today!

If you are interested in joining the Land & Legacy Society, have already included BSLT in your estate plans or would like more information about legacy giving, please contact Kate Mitchell Mehle at 831-625-5523 ext. 105 or email [kmitchell@bigsurlandtrust.org](mailto:kmitchell@bigsurlandtrust.org).



# Thank you to our volunteers!

A look at some of the ways you have put your heart and soul into the lands we all love



Leading a hike at Arroyo Seco Ranch • Preparing the soil for the native plant garden at Carr Lake • Raising tents for youth camps at Glen Deven Ranch • Showing appreciation for Salinas Adult School students • Volunteer open house at BSLT • Community native garden planting at Carr Lake • Trail repairs at Mitteldorf Preserve • Alisal High School volunteers at Carr Lake • Pouring wine at BSLT event • Leading hikes at Marks Ranch Community Day • Volunteer youth photographers at Mitteldorf Preserve

**Become a volunteer today! Check out opportunities and sign up at [bit.ly/BSLT-Upcoming-Events](http://bit.ly/BSLT-Upcoming-Events)**

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Camp Counselor  
Communications Manager



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# Tour the Carmel River FREE Project Site

Friday, August 3 or Friday, September 7

This summer, BSLT staff members Sarah Hardgrave and Rachel Saunders will lead guided tours at the site of the Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement (Carmel River FREE) Project. This is an easy-to-moderate 2.5-mile informational walk from the barn at Palo Corona to the South Bank Trail gate. Along the way you will have an opportunity to envision the floodplain restoration of the former Odello agriculture fields and a new causeway on Highway One. This is an opportunity to see how BSLT's 128-acre property will be transformed in the coming years.



# Experience the lands you love

Doing what you love

## CELEBRATE

**Race for Open Space**  
Marks Ranch, Salinas  
Saturday, June 23

**Full Moon Hike & Concert**  
Glen Deven Ranch  
Wednesday, October 24

## VOLUNTEER

**Mitteldorf Preserve  
bridge enhancements**  
Saturday, August 18

**Glen Deven Ranch  
native seeds collection**  
Saturday, October 20

## HIKE

**Arroyo Seco Ranch**  
Tuesday, October 16

**Glen Deven Ranch**  
Wednesday, August 8\*  
Saturday, September 1\*\*  
Saturday, September 15  
Saturday, October 20

**Marks Ranch**  
Saturday, September 8  
Saturday, October 6

**Martin Dunes**  
Tuesday, September 4

**Mitteldorf Preserve**  
Friday, June 22  
Saturday, July 14  
Saturday, July 28  
Tuesday, August 7

\* Trail run  
\*\* Hilltop yoga and hike

Learn more and sign up at [bit.ly/BSLT-Upcoming-Events](http://bit.ly/BSLT-Upcoming-Events)